

Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Executive Summary



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Refuge Mission Statement

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—*National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997*

The comprehensive conservation plan details program planning levels that are substantially greater than current budget allocations and, as such, is for strategic planning and program prioritization purposes only. This plan does not constitute a commitment for staffing increases or funding for future refuge-specific land acquisitions, construction projects, or operational and maintenance increases.

Photo credits: front cover—"Fox and Bear Go Walking," © Heather Johnson, Kiak Arts & Images; back cover (eagle)—USFWS; (harlequin)—Denny Zwiefelhofer, USFWS; (brown bears)—Leslie Kerr, USFWS

Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

***Kodiak
National Wildlife Refuge***

Executive Summary

August 2006

Prepared by
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 7
Anchorage, Alaska

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
1390 Buskin River Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 7
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, AK 99503



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Regional Office, National Wildlife Refuge System-Alaska
Division of Conservation Planning & Policy
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 786-3357

Dear Reader:

The Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will guide management of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. The Plan outlines four management alternatives, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's preferred alternative, and presents the Service's evaluation of the environmental consequences of each of those alternatives. This document summarizes the final Plan and EIS.

To develop the final Plan, we analyzed and considered the comments received on the Draft Plan, which was released in October 2004.

The Plan provides management direction for activities and uses of Kodiak Refuge, goals and objectives for refuge programs, and compatibility determinations for the current uses of the Refuge. The major change between the Draft Plan and this final Plan is that we modified the amount of refuge land proposed for reclassification to Minimal Management. Rather than only 12,321 acres under Moderate Management, Alternative D (the Preferred Alternative) now includes 31,521 acres under Moderate Management. We clarified the role of public use regulations under Alternatives B, C, and D if voluntary use guidelines are not effective; clarified the differences between current and proposed management related to introduction/reintroduction of fish and wildlife species; and added aquaculture support facilities to the list of possible uses of the Refuge (Tables 2-2 and 2-5). We have revised the language addressing Service jurisdiction over waters within the boundaries of Kodiak Refuge.

We will publish a Record of Decision no sooner than 30 days after release of this final Plan. The Record of Decision will present the rational for selecting the course of action that will be followed by the Refuge.

Direct comments to:

Mikel R. Haase, Planning Team Leader
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, AK 99503
fw7_Kodiak_planning@fws.gov
(907) 786-3402

Requests for additional information can be directed to Mr. Haase or to:

Refuge Manager
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
1390 Buskin River Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 487-2600

Request copies of the full document (on CD-ROM, limited printed copies available) or the Executive Summary (printed) through the same sources. You may also view the Plan online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm>.

*We thank everyone who participated in the planning and public involvement process.
Your comments helped us prepare a better plan for the future of Kodiak Refuge.*

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose and Need for Action.....	2
1.2	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge System.....	2
1.2.1	Fish & Wildlife Service and Refuge System Missions.....	2
1.2.2	Principles for Managing the National Wildlife Refuge System	3
2.	Refuge Purposes, Vision, and Goals and Objectives	3
2.1	Refuge Purposes.....	3
2.2	Vision Statement.....	4
2.3	Refuge Goals and Objectives	4
3.	Refuge Overview	15
3.1	Refuge Establishment	15
3.2	Refuge Environment.....	17
4.	The Planning Process	18
5.	Issues	18
5.1	Public Comments on the Draft Conservation Plan/EIS	19
6.	Management Alternatives.....	20
6.1	Elements Common to All Alternatives.....	20
6.2	Alternative A—Current Management	21
6.3	Changes in Management Direction—Alternative A vs.Alternatives B, C, & D	22
6.4	Alternative B	25
6.5	Alternative C	25
6.6	Alternative D (Preferred Alternative).....	26
6.7	Summary Comparison of the Alternatives	27
7.	Selection of the Preferred Alternative	33
8.	Implementation, Monitoring, and Revision of the Conservation Plan	33
8.1	Implementation.....	33
8.2	Monitoring	34
8.3	Amendment and Revision.....	34